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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Fermin Ruiz et al.) Examiner: Jeffrey L. Gillner
Serial No.: 10/081,674) Art Unit: 3643
Filed: February 22, 2002) Confirmation No. 2114
For: Controlled Ripening)
Protective Cover For)
Agricultural Products)

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AMENDMENT APR 30 2003
GROUP 3600

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed January 12, 2003, please amend the
above-identified application for patent as follows.

In The Claim:

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Please amend the following claims.

1. (Once Amended) A protective cover for protection of agricultural products, said protective cover sized to permit said cover to be positioned generally about an associated agricultural product, said cover comprising a fibrous nonwoven fabric formed from fibrous material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polymers, thermoset polymers, natural fibers, and combinations thereof, and/or polymeric filamentary elements, said fibrous nonwoven fabric including a portion exhibiting the ability to modify the ripening of the agricultural product prior to harvesting, while retarding passage of dust and insects.